



COMMUNITY NEWS

Via Linda District

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Water Safety and Drowning Prevention

June 21st marks the beginning of summer. However, this has not prevented the temperature from topping 100 degrees already. So it's time for everyone to hit their backyard pools and the beautiful lakes Arizona has to offer. Families and friends will be swimming, boating, visiting water parks and heading off to their favorite vacation getaway. This is an appropriate time to discuss water safety and drowning prevention before the summer gets into full swing.

Too many times family members tell officers "I was only away for a few seconds." Unfortunately, just a few seconds is all it takes for a child to drown. Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of four in Arizona. Many children drown in their backyard pools. Others drown or have "near drowning" incidents in spas, bathtubs, canals, ponds, lakes, toilets and even buckets of water. A child can drown in as little as two inches of water.

"Near drowning" tragedies can cause children to have permanent brain damage. Small children do not have the upper body strength to lift themselves out of a dangerous water situation.

With this in mind I would like to share a few water safety strategies you can utilize at home and on vacation.

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From The Desk Of Commander Burl Haenel

School is quickly winding down and summer vacations are right around the corner. Each year, families begin to prepare for summer camps, summer school and of course, which vacation destination is next on the list. As we sift through all the information and try to decide the best options for our family, there are some other things we must keep in mind.

First, as we drive around our community during the week and juggle work and play, pay very close attention to the children nearby. For the past nine months, our children have been hitting the books and actively participating in school activities. With the summer season, our children may be riding bikes, playing games at the park or just walking to a friend's house throughout our community. We must be extra cautious as we drive our vehicles for our safety and theirs. Second, if you have a teenage driver, make sure they are aware of all the distractions that can take place in a vehicle like friends, animals and cell phones. We far too often read tragic stories about accidents involving a distracted driver who was texting or looking through a purse while moving. They should understand that driving requires focus at all times.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer and has many wonderful memories as we look forward to the Fall.

Commander Burl Haenel
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Water safety continued

Pool safety

- Know where your children are at all times.
- Always have a designated "child watcher."
- Never allow children to be alone near a pool or any water source.
- Use an approved fence/barrier to separate the pool from your house.
- Make sure pool gates are equipped with self locking/self-latching features.
- Consider alarms and automatic interior door locks.
- Keep tables, chairs, boxes, ladders and toys away from pool fences.
- Place life-saving devices near your pool such as flotation devices, first aid kits, a "reaching pole" and a cordless/cell telephone.
- Make sure your children know how to swim.
- Make sure you and anyone responsible for watching your child are CPR trained (including grandparents, older siblings, care givers and baby sitters).

Water Safety while on Vacation

- Enforce the same safety rules you set at home.
- Never allow your children to swim unsupervised in a hotel/motel pool. Do not assume someone else is watching your child.
- Inspect the pool before you swim. Is there a lifeguard on duty? Where is the rescue equipment? Do you know how to use it? Does it work? Where is the telephone? Does it dial out of the hotel/motel?

The good news is water related incidents can be prevented. It is your responsibility to educate your children about water safety. Summer is the time for vacations, but we can never take a vacation from water safety.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Kory Sneed at 480-312-5696, email: ksneed@scottsdaleaz.gov , or District 3 Police Aide Terri Terlazzo at 480-312-8292, email: tterlazzo@scottsdaleaz.gov .

Mayor Proclaims May as Water Safety and Awareness Month

In the month of May, Scottsdale Fire Department representatives will be visiting Scottsdale Unified Public School Kindergarten and First Grade Classes to teach water safety. The program centers on the book, "Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim." Students participating in this year's program will receive a complimentary copy of the book to share with their families. This is the third year, the water safety program has been taught in Scottsdale.

The effort draws attention to the ongoing need to remind our residents that drowning can be prevented.

If you are interested in water safety classes contact the city's Aquatic program at (480)-312-POOL. For information on CPR classes call the Scottsdale Fire Department at (480)-312-3473.

Upcoming Events **Shredding Event**

Scottsdale Police Department, Scottsdale Bible Church and "Shred-It" are teaming up for a shredding event to prevent identity theft. Tuesday, May 11 from 8 to 10 a.m. or until the truck fills up, whichever comes first. The event will be held at Scottsdale Bible Church, 7601 E. Shea Blvd., South parking lot behind the church. Enter off Gold Dust or Miller.

Limit of four medium boxes. Paper clips and staples are OK. No file folders, plastic or binder clips. Please screen your boxes prior to arrival. Free event, but donations will be accepted to benefit Police Officers of Scottsdale Association Outreach.

For additional information contact Officer K. Sneed.

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817